

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1-3 and 7-18 with claim 7-18 being withdrawn from consideration.

Undersigned acknowledges with appreciation the helpful telephone interview with Examiner Sellers on February 25, 2008. No specific agreements were reached. A summary of the representations made during the course of said interview are included in the remarks below.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yonehama et al. (US 6,562,934) in view of CAPLUS accession no. 1990:425027 for the Kobonshi Ronbunshu article by Tanaka et al. and European Patent No. 477,440.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Official Action discusses the Rule 132 Declaration of record and states:

The declaration merely compares the closest prior art Example 1 of Yonehama et al. containing an addition product with a molar ratio of 1:1 to that of Example 2 with a molar ratio of 2:1.

In reply, the result of the experiment shown in the Declaration is not a mere comparison between Example 1 and Example 2 of Yonehama et al., but the comparison between said Examples 1 and 2 of Yonehama et al. and the polyamino compound of the present invention which is an addition product with a molar ratio of 1:1 having the content of unreacted diamine less than 2%.

An examination of the Declaration shows that the combination of the polyamino compound of the present invention with salicylic acid provides an improvement in low-temperature curability which cannot be obtained by the combination of Examples 1 and 2 of Yonehama et al. with salicylic acid.

The rejection contends that Example 1 of Yonehama et al. falls within the scope of claim 1 of the present application, which is incorrect.

The polyamino compound obtained in Example 1 of Yonehama et al. is an addition product with a molar ratio of 1:1 but the content of unreacted polyamine is more than 2% by weight. In this respect, Example 1 of Yonehama is unsuggestive of the present claims which require unreacted polyamine content of less than 2%. As shown in the Declaration, the

combination of the polyamino compound obtained by Example 1 of Yonehama et al. and salicylic acid cannot provide an improvement in low-temperature curability.

In addition, as shown in the Declaration, the combination of the addition product with a molar ratio of 2:1 obtained by Example 2 of Yonehama et al. and salicylic acid cannot provide an improvement of low-temperature curability as well.

Thus, the improvement of low-temperature curability can be obtained only by the combination of the polyamino compound meeting specific conditions (i.e., with a molar ratio of 1:1 and with the content of unreacted polyamine less than 2%) as presently claimed and with a curing agent having at least one carbonyl group and at least one hydroxyl group e.g. salicylic acid.

This particular combination as presently claimed cannot be anticipated by or obvious from Yonehama et al. alone or from Yonehama et al. in view of Tanaka et al. and the European patent.

For the foregoing reasons, it is apparent that the rejection on prior art is untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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